

a2 9. (Amended) A rheology regulator according to Claim 1, characterised in that it has an oil absorption which is greater than 16 measured according to ISO 787-V (Rub-out method).

10. (Amended) Use of a rheology regulator according to Claim 1, for the preparation of sealants, adhesives or plastisols.

11. (Amended) Use of a rheology regulator according to Claim 1 for the preparation of rubbers.

12. (Amended) Use as a rheology regulator, of dispersions or suspensions, in an organic medium, of a natural calcium carbonate crushed to a high degree of fineness according to Claim 1 for the preparation of sealants or coatings, adhesives or plastisols.

13. (Amended) Use as a rheology regulator, of dispersions or suspensions, in an organic medium, of a natural calcium carbonate crushed to a high degree of fineness according to Claim 1, for the preparation of rubbers.

14. (Amended) A plastisol, characterised in that it comprises a rheology regulator according to Claim 1.

15. (Amended) A rubber, characterised in that it comprises a rheology regulator according to Claim 1.

16. (Amended) A sealant or coating or adhesive, characterised in that it comprises a rheology regulator according to Claim 1.

a3 18. (Amended) A sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, characterised in that it comprises in addition to one or more additives chosen from amongst smoked silica as a thixotropic agent, a bleaching agent such as  $\text{TiO}_2$ , UV stabilizers, adhesion promoter, a catalyst such as dibutyltin dilaurate and dehydrating agents such as a silane.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--7. (Amended) A rheology regulator according to [any one of Claims 1 to 6] Claim 1, characterised in that it is a case of a natural calcium carbonate treated by means of at least one fatty acid containing 10 to 24 atoms of carbon or its salt chosen from amongst the salts of calcium, magnesium, zinc or a mixture thereof and more particularly using stearic acid or its calcium salt in a proportion of around 0.01% to 5% by weight.

9. (Amended) A rheology regulator according to [any one of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, characterised in that it has an oil absorption which is greater than 16 measured according to ISO 787-V (Rub-out method).

10. (Amended) Use of a rheology regulator according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1, for the preparation of sealants, adhesives or plastisols.

11. (Amended) Use of a rheology regulator according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1 for the preparation of rubbers.

12. (Amended) Use as a rheology regulator, of dispersions or suspensions, in an organic medium, of a natural calcium carbonate crushed to a high degree of fineness according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1 for the preparation of sealants or coatings, adhesives or plastisols.

13. (Amended) Use as a rheology regulator, of dispersions or suspensions, in an

organic medium, of a natural calcium carbonate crushed to a high degree of fineness according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1, for the preparation of rubbers.

14. (Amended) A plastisol, characterised in that it comprises a rheology regulator according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1.

15. (Amended) A rubber, characterised in that it comprises a rheology regulator according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1.

16. (Amended) A sealant or coating or adhesive, characterised in that it comprises a rheology regulator according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1.

18. (Amended) A sealant or coating or adhesive according to [either one of Claims 16 and 17] Claim 1, characterised in that it comprises in addition to one or more additives chosen from amongst smoked silica as a thixotropic agent, a bleaching agent such as  $\text{TiO}_2$ , UV stabilizers, adhesion promoter, a catalyst such as dibutyltin dilaurate and dehydrating agents such as a silane.--